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Special
Report No. 93

1977–80

Trade of NATO With China

United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.

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The following is a report prepared by Lucie Kornei, Office of Analysis for Western Europe, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, November 30, 1981.

This is a new report in our series analyzing the direction of trade of Western countries. Trade of NATO countries with China was formerly included in the Special Report series, "Trade of NATO and Communist Countries."* Although trade with China is small, the subject is of general interest.

During the 1977–80 period shown in Table I, the combined imports of all NATO countries from China, as a percentage of NATO members' total imports, remained relatively steady, while exports fluctuated somewhat. In the first 2 years covered, imports remained at 0.2%; they were 0.3% in 1979 and 0.4% in 1980. Exports were 0.3% in 1977 and rose slowly to 0.5% in 1978, 0.6% in 1979, and 0.7% in 1980.

The trade of European NATO countries followed a similar pattern during this period. Imports rose only from 0.2% to 0.4%. Exports for European NATO increased slightly from 0.3% in 1977 to 0.4% in 1978 and 0.5% in 1979, but fell back in 1980 to 0.4%.

Table II shows imports and exports by individual countries. On the import side, none of the European countries, Canada, or the United States imported more than 0.5% of their world imports from China during this 4-year period. Only Italy reached the 0.5% peak and then for only 1 year, 1979.

On the export side, only two European countries (Iceland and Norway), Canada, and the United States sent to China more than 1% of the products they exported at various times. Iceland's exports in 1977 and 1978 were 2.1% and 1.6% of its world exports and consisted of aluminum during both years. Norway's exports were 1.1% of its world exports in 1977 and were made up mainly of ships and aluminum.

Canada's exports fluctuated between 0.8% and 1.1% of its world exports over the 4-year period. Grain constituted the bulk of those exports.

U.S. exports to China were negligible in 1977, only 0.1% of its world exports, but they increased to 0.6% in 1978, 0.9% in 1979, and 1.7% in 1980. Exports of agricultural products amounted to $2.2 billion and made up 59% of total U.S. exports to China in 1980. The rest of U.S. exports consisted of miscellaneous manufactured goods, machinery and transport equipment, and chemicals. For the period January-September 1981, U.S. exports to China amounted to 1.5% of U.S. world exports, a drop of 0.1 percentage points compared with the same period in 1980.

Sources

- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Statistics of Foreign Trade*, Monthly Bulletin, Series A, various dates.
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Highlights of U.S. Export and Import Trade*, Report FT 990, various dates.

*For trade of NATO countries with European members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CEMA), see Special Report No. 92, "Trade of NATO With European CEMA Countries, 1977-1980.

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TABLE I

TRADE OF NATO WITH CHINA, 1977-1980
(in millions of dollars)

Country/Area	1977			1978			1979			1980		
	Total from (or to) entire world	From (or to) China	Trade with China as % of world trade	Total from (or to) entire world	From (or to) China	Trade with China as % of world trade	Total from (or to) entire world	From (or to) China	Trade with China as % of world trade	Total from (or to) entire world	From (or to) China	Trade with China as % of world trade
Imports (c.i.f.)												
European NATO	414,190.7	1,005.6	0.2	484,604.5	1,223.8	0.3	630,222.0	1,854.2	0.3	755,793.5	2,655.8	0.4
Canada (f.o.b.)	39,542.2	77.0	0.2	43,554.7	82.9	0.2	53,518.0	143.0	0.3	58,992.0	132.5	0.2
US (f.o.b.)	148,704.0	201.1	0.1	173,249.9	324.0	0.2	207,058.0	593.2	0.3	241,194.9	1,058.3	0.4
Total NATO	602,436.9	1,283.7	0.2	701,409.1	1,630.7	0.2	890,798.0	2,590.4	0.3	1,055,980.4	3,846.6	0.4
Exports (f.o.b.)												
European NATO	392,809.0	1,026.2	0.3	473,862.0	1,989.9	0.4	593,544.1	2,923.6	0.5	686,393.7	2,499.5	0.4
Canada	41,558.5	347.3	0.8	46,147.6	441.8	1.0	55,931.6	506.4	0.9	64,938.7	743.2	1.1
US	121,242.4	171.4	0.1	143,662.7	822.0	0.6	181,815.6	1,724.0	0.9	220,704.9	3,754.9	1.7
Total NATO	555,609.9	1,544.9	0.3	663,672.3	3,253.7	0.5	831,291.3	5,154.0	0.6	972,037.3	6,997.6	0.7

TABLE II

TRADE OF NATO COUNTRIES WITH CHINA, 1977-1980
(in millions of dollars, c.i.f.)

Country/Area	VALUE				PERCENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS			
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1977	1978	1979	1980
A. Imports								
Belgium-Luxembourg	40.4	44.6	76.6	190.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Denmark	28.2	31.8	43.4	65.8	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
France	193.9	225.0	326.4	468.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Federal Republic of Germany	288.0	367.2	534.0	804.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
Greece	2.4	2.1	9.6	25.6	insig	insig	0.1	0.2
Iceland	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Italy	161.3	199.7	393.6	438.0	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4
Netherlands	94.4	125.3	156.4	273.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4
Norway	11.0	12.6	16.2	25.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Portugal	1.3	2.1	3.7	7.4	insig	insig	insig	0.1
Turkey	1.6	0.1	0.2	0.2	insig	insig	insig	insig
UK	182.2	212.3	292.8	356.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total European NATO	1,005.6	1,223.8	1,854.2	2,655.8	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4
Canada (f.o.b.)	77.0	82.9	143.0	132.5	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
US (f.o.b.)	201.1	324.0	593.2	1,058.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4
Total NATO	1,283.7	1,630.7	2,590.4	3,846.6	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4

TRADE OF NATO COUNTRIES WITH CHINA 1977-1980
(in millions of dollars, f.o.b.)

Country/Area	VALUE				PERCENT OF TOTAL EXPORTS			
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1977	1978	1979	1980
B. Exports								
Belgium-Luxembourg	47.4	203.4	130.4	104.3	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.2
Denmark	16.4	8.0	23.0	43.9	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3
France	95.3	197.4	338.4	303.6	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3
Federal Republic of Germany	501.6	994.8	1,492.8	1,144.8	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.6
Greece	5.8	2.3	3.5	13.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3
Iceland	10.9	10.5	-	-	2.1	1.6	-	-
Italy	86.4	188.2	278.4	256.8	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3
Netherlands	51.8	131.6	159.7	148.0	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2
Norway	96.2	60.0	34.8	85.6	1.1	0.6	0.3	0.5
Portugal	0.1	4.3	1.2	2.1	insig	0.2	insig	0.1
Turkey	5.6	14.6	9.0	2.5	0.3	0.6	0.4	insig
UK	108.7	174.8	452.4	394.8	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.3
Total European NATO	1,026.2	1,989.9	2,923.6	2,499.5	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4
Canada	347.3	441.8	506.4	763.2	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.1
US	171.4	822.0	1,724.0	3,754.9	0.1	0.6	0 9	1.7
Total NATO	1,544.9	3,253.7	5,154.0	6,997.6	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.7

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